Statement of Significance.

Section I – Brief history and description of the church building, contents, churchyard and setting.

The church of St Mary is a grade I listed church which situated on a minor road 1 mile north-west of the A5025.

Although it is dedicated to the scriptural saint Mary, some believe that the church may have been established by a Celtic saint named Pedyr Lanuaur. A short path leads to the impressive lychgate (grade II). St Mary's church is a fairly large church of medieval appearance, standing in a quiet wooden location. The former rectory stands nearby. At one time St Mary's church was a chapel of ease to Llanddeusant church.

Medieval parish church, with Perpendicular detail. W tower surmounted by short spire, nave with S porch and lower chancel and S chancel chapel. Built of rubble masonry, heavily mortared, with freestone dressings. Slate roof with stone copings and the bases of gable finials. The 2-stage W tower has offset angle buttresses to lower stage, and pointed arched W door with hoodmould. Tall upper stage recessed slightly, and with single, simple arched light housing bell immediately below crenellated parapet to W. Short pyramidal spire recessed behind parapet. Unusually long S porch to W of nave, with original doorway blocked and with window inserted when it was converted to a vestry in the mid C19. Simple flat-headed 2-light traceried C14 window to E of porch; 3-light window in centre of N wall of similar date, with simple round-headed lights. Three-light panel-traceried E window to chancel, in pointed arch with hood-mould; chancel N window is a C19 copy of the late C16 nave flat-headed window, with hoodmould, of 3 round-headed lights. The S chapel has a fine C16 E window of 3 foiled lights in a chamfered 4-centred arch with hood-mould. Flat-headed window of 3-foiled lights to its S wall.

The walls of the nave and the chapel arch are from the 11th and 12th century. The windows in the north and south walls of the nave are from the 16th and 14th centuries reprehensively. The chancel underwent rebuilding and lengthening in the 15th century or early 16th century; its east window is from this period. The south chapel and the arcade (of three arches) were completed in the late 15th or early 16th century and the chapel's east window is from this period.

The tower was added in the 17th century; it is topped a squat pyramidal structure. The bell-cote is incorporated into the west wall of the tower; it contains a 17th century bell. The church door is also in the west wall of the tower; the original south porch is now used as a vestry. There is stained glass in the east window of the chancel; there is also patterned stained glass in the north wall of the nave. Restoration work financed by Richard Lloyd of Rhosbeirio took place in 1812.

The church underwent further restoration in 1847 under architects John Weightman and Matthew Hadfield, and in 1860 another restoration was carried out under the direction of the Rector, the Reverend James Williams. Restoration of the chancel and chapel was undertaken in the 1930s.

Entry to the church is now through the lower stage of the W tower. Modern double doors lead into the W end of the nave; doorway to the vestry leads off to the R (S) and to the left is an octagonal stone font with circular bowl. The nave has a roof of exposed collared trusses linked by moulded timbers running along the length of the roof and decorated at spaced intersections by painted plaster shield bosses. Nave and chancel are divided by a plain round C11 or C12 chancel arch. The chancel has an exposed late C15 roof of closely spaced arch-braced trusses, alternate trusses with posts; the S chapel has an early C16 roof of 4-bays with exposed heavy arch-braced collared trusses. Chancel and S chapel are separated by an early C16 arcade of 3 bays with 4-centred arches of 2 hollow-chamfered orders. The columns are octagonal and the responds semi-octagonal with moulded capitals and bases. The E respond has early C16 letters below the springing course which reads: SCA MARIA ORA PRO ME DAVID A JACO. There is evidence of the position of a screen located to the N of the W column; shown by a cut groove which corresponds to markings on the N wall of the chancel; on the S side of the column is a crudely carved stone with human face. The chancel is raised by one step with modern moulded chancel rail on stick balusters.

The sanctuary is up a further step and is paved with C18 gravestones. The font is octagonal with a circular bowl. There are two stained glass windows by David Evans, both 1850, one 'Christ Blessing the Elements, carrying the Cross and with Children'; the other plain. The bell was cast in 1936 by John Taylor & Co.

Section 2: the significance of the church (including its contents and churchyard) in terms of;

i) Its special architectural and historical interest.
ii) Any significant features of artistic or archaeological interest.

i) Inside the church is a memorial to Evan Thomas (1735-1814), the founder of the famous Anglesey family of bone-seters, who is buried in the churchyard.
Also buried there are the Reverend James Williams (1790-1872) and his wife Frances (1797-1858). They arrived in Llanfair-yng-Nghornwy about the time that a ship called the *Alert* sank in a violent storm with the loss of 140 lives. The couple vowed to provide a lifeboat at Cemlyn and then at Holyhead. They established the Anglesey Association for the preservation of Lives from Shipwreck in 1828, later to become a part of the RNLI. Frances, a talented artist, sold prints of her work to raise funds, while James received a gold medal in 1835 for his lifesaving efforts. They are buried in the churchyard, as is their great grandson, acclaimed artist Kyffin Williams. James Williams was Rector of Llanfairynghonrnwy from 1821 until 1872; his father John Williams was Rector before him for 52 years.

ii) Nave - arch-braced trusses with timber boarded ceiling above the ornamental bossed purlins. These were a gift of the poet RS Thomas who not only worshipped here for a time in his retirement but also married his second wife, Betty Vernon, in St Mary's.
At the east end, the church opens out unexpectedly into the light and space of Capel Mynachdy or 'chapel of the monks' house', built in the early 16th century with stone said to have come from the ruins of an old chapel at Cader Mynachdy near Carmel Head. One of the three dividing arches includes a Latin inscription, SCA MARIA ORA PRO ME DAVID A JACO 'Saint Mary pray for me David ap Iago', while another bears a simple carved stone head.

The sanctuary is raised by a further step and is paved with C18 gravestones: to William Roberts of Cayrey d.1714, and to Ellen wife of Thomas Rowlands d.1729; S chapel to J W Hughes d.1766, and to Wm Hughes d.1767. The E and S wall of the S chapel sanctuary with panelled reredos.

There are several memorials along the N wall of the chancel: Marble memorial tablet with pyramidal head to Evan Thomas of Maes, bonesetter, d.1814. Erected by Thomas James Warren Bulkeley, Lord Viscount Bulkeley. Marble memorial tablet with moulded head and base over a slab depicting cherubs heads and set on plain corbels: to William Roberts of Cayrey esq. d.1715. Ornate marble memorial tablet with flanking scrollwork, obelisk and urn to the head and set on a shaped base with floral wreath: to Emma Lady Viscountess Bulkeley Williams, daughter and heiress of Thos. Rowlands of Nant, Carnarvonshire. Marble memorial tablet with fluted sides and top, set on a shaped base with shield motif and with urn in pyramidal head over: to Sir Hugh Williams Bart. d.1794.

On the S wall of the S chapel is a modern slate memorial to James and Frances Williams, erected at the request of their descendant Sir Kyffin Williams. There are also C20 memorials on the E wall and on the floor of the S chapel. The E window is of 3-lights, by D. Evans of Shrewsbury, 1850. The central light depicts Christ seated at a table, the left hand light Christ with children and the right hand light bearing the cross: the text is in Welsh. The vestry was formerly the South porch and the S side of the C14 doorway has a pointed head set in a square frame formed by the outer unit of the jamb mouldings being carried up and returned across the head.

2 windows are noted on stained glass Wales webpage;

- Chancel east wall – Christ Bless the Elements, Carying the Cross and with Children, artis David Evans, 1850.
- Suth wall of Nave - Three-light window with patterned quarries surrounded by borders of coloured glass, depiting vines and lion's heads, 1850.

Christ Blessing the Elements, Carrying the Cross and with Children

Section 3: An assessment of the impact of the proposal on the significance defined in Section 2.

The proposed works is to address years of continued water ingress entering through failed valley gutter (between the chancel and south chapel). The defects to the valley gutter were highlighted in last Ezra reporting (2021) - '*The tapered gutter between the chancel and transept is shallow and has failed in the past and continues to do so'.*
Works also to repair slipped slates to chancel (like for like) and flashing repair to nave east gable.

The repairs noted below is to make the church watertight which would prevent further deterioration of this wonderful medieval church and its historical contents noted in section 2.

Internal plaster / torching repairs will be conducted by lime specialist contractors. The memorials and furnishings will be protected during the course of the repairs.

Current condition, supporting documents are included in the application;
On high level inspection, it was clear to see 3 holes in the valley present, (size of a pound coin). Past repairs have been conducted to three separate areas, where modern GRP coating or similar used. Internally you could see how external defects has allowed water to enter the fabric, and ceiling plaster is discoloured directly below the 3 no. holes.
Small section of plaster to the east of the transept (also known as south chapel) is now visible, an inspection of the timbers was made, timber rotten, and water was seen dripping from an earlier morning downpour.

To conduct the repair to the valley gutter, 5-6 slate courses to each side will need to be taken down, provisional sum for timber will need to be allowed due to the years of water ingress. South slope of chancel is noted to be original, where other slopes have been re-slated over the years. The proposed works, the south chancel slope slates will be taken up and re-slated, allowance for 50% reuse of existing slates and salvaged slates like for like to be used. Chancel north slope slate repairs will be conducted at same time, as would the re-flashing to south slope east nave gable, where daylight visible internally.

The chancel north roof slope is in fairly poor condition, with several slipped and broken slate. Heavy moss growth to the chancel south roof slope, and section of slates loose. Chancel roof – the north has roofing battens where the south slope is lath and plastered. Internally there are missing section of torching to both ceiling slopes of chancel, which was also noted in 2021 report.

Sources;
Anglesey churches by Geraint Jones
https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/st-mary-llanfairynghornwy
https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=&id=5380
CHURCH HERITAGE RECORD 2110 https://heritage.churchinwales.org.uk/CHR/ChurchDetails.aspx?id=3317#Interior
https://catalogue.stainedglass.wales/object/4150